



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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DOT TO START ROADSIDE VEGETATION PROGRAM

The Monroe County Department of Transportation today announced plans to begin application of roadside herbicides to selected guiderail locations and signposts on County highways.

In conjunction with the New York State Transportation Department, the County plans to manage roadside vegetation biologically, mechanically and chemically in order to maintain safety along highways. Neglected roadsides will eventually create massive overgrowth that will block lines of vision to signs, intersections, other vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. In addition, undesirable plant species will take over creating a hazard in the vehicle recovery area and strong root systems will break up pavement.

"Monroe County has an obligation to uphold the safety of our employees, the traveling public and nearby property owners," said Frank Dolan, director of the Monroe County Department of Transportation. "Mechanical removal is not always an option and therefore alternative measures are taken to address the situation responsibly."

In order to control roadside vegetation along 3,300 shoulder miles of state highways and 38 miles of guiderail on Monroe County roads in the Greater Rochester area, the state and county Departments of Transportation take a biological proactive approach to minimize the need for control by establishing desirable vegetation during construction projects. This vegetation is maintained primarily by mechanical methods, including mowing and tree trimming/removal projects. The 2% of state highways and the 2.5% of county highways that can't be controlled by mechanical means are treated chemically. These areas, primarily under and behind guiderails, are often sprayed with a hand-held applicator.

This project will be accomplished in conformity with the New York State Transportation Department's Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, which includes approved methods of control and tactics to minimize the need for control as outlined in the Department's Environmental Initiative. The State DOT has set up a toll-free hotline for residents to find out if there are plans to spray in their area. 1-877-201-8762.

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***For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380***

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